



Department of Justice

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NEWBURGH HUSBAND AND WIFE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO UNLAWFULLY OBTAIN ABOUT \$173,000 IN SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that SUSAN M. MARTINEZ, 54, and ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ, 60, of Newburgh, Indiana, were charged with conspiracy to defraud an agency of the United States, following an investigation by the Social Security Administration Inspector General and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ was also charged with Social Security disability benefits fraud.

The Information alleges that between January 1996 and January 2008, SUSAN M. MARTINEZ and her husband, ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ, conspired to defraud the Social Security Administration to obtain disability benefits that ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ was not entitled to receive. The Information alleges that SUSAN M. MARTINEZ allowed ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ to work and receive wages under her name and social security number to conceal the wages from the Social Security Administration. ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ applied for and received benefits by claiming that he was physically unable to work and earned no wages from work. The Information alleges that from 1996 to 2008, SUSAN M. MARTINEZ and ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ used Social Security disability funds for their personal benefit totaling approximately \$173,046. The Information alleges that ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ was not entitled to receive any of these benefits because he was able to work and did, in fact, earn wages by working during the time period named in the Information.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, SUSAN and ANTONIO MARTINEZ face a maximum possible prison sentence of 5 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 on the conspiracy charge. ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ also faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 5 years and a

maximum possible fine of \$250,000 on the Social Security disability benefits fraud charge. An initial hearing has already been held for SUSAN M. MARTINEZ. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville, Indiana, for ANTONIO A. MARTINEZ.

The Information is an allegation only, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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